

REVITALIZING THE ECOSYSTEM



1992-2000

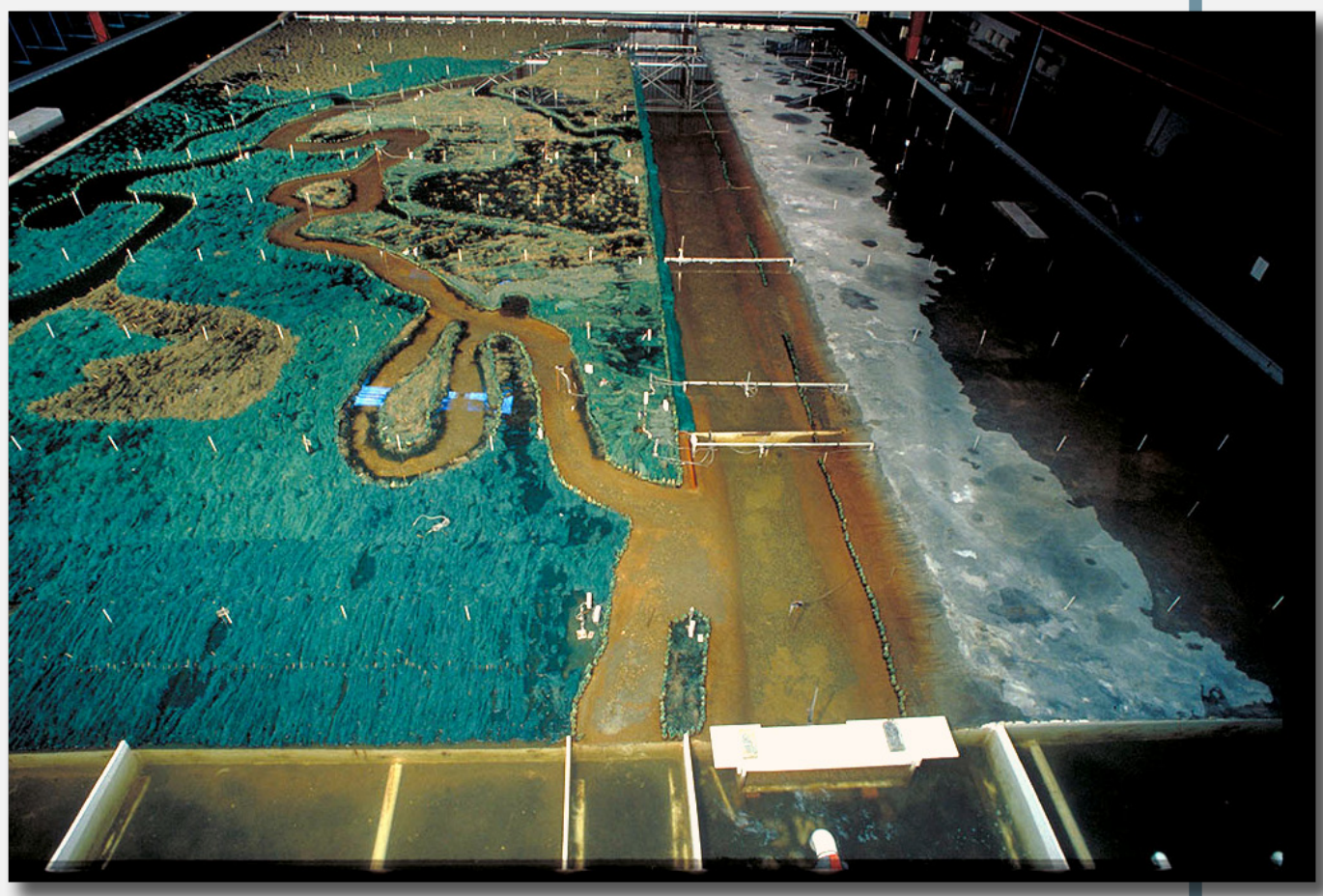
By 1992, phosphorus control measures are being implemented in the watershed north of Lake Okeechobee as part of the Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan. Closed or relocated are 19 of 49 dairies north of the lake, reducing the 45,000 dairy cows by one-third. Rigorous best management practices are in place at the remaining dairies. In 2000, Florida is the nation’s fourth most populous state with 16 million people. More than 6.5 million people live in South Florida. Throughout the decade, the federal government authorizes and embarks on comprehensive environmental restoration plans and Florida begins constructing massive treatment wetlands to improve water quality in the Everglades.

1992

Congress authorizes the Restudy of the Water Management System.
The Water Resources Development Act of 1992 directs the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate a comprehensive review of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project. The focus is on restoring and enhancing the region’s natural systems while maintaining flood control.

1992

Congress authorizes Kissimmee River Restoration.
The Water Resources Development Act directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake one of the largest ecosystem restoration projects in the world. The intent is to restore a “functional riverine, floodplain ecosystem.”



Kissimmee River restoration model built at University of California, Berkeley

1992

Hurricane Andrew strikes southern Dade County.
The costliest U.S. disaster to date (\$16 billion in damage), the category 5 hurricane forever changes Florida’s hurricane construction standards and residents’ preparation plans.



Massive destruction caused by category 5 Hurricane Andrew in Homestead, 1992

1994

State passes Everglades Forever Act.
Governor Lawton Chiles signs legislation calling for contributions by the state, federal government and sugar industry for construction, land acquisition and water treatment. The treatment system — the Everglades Construction Project — features a combination of stormwater treatment areas and best management practices to improve water quality in the Everglades.

1997

The District completes six Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs).
In conjunction with implementation of best management practices, the STAs reduce phosphorus levels by more than half in stormwater leaving the Everglades Agricultural Area.



Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs) remove phosphorus from water before it enters the Everglades

1997

The state requires regional water supply plans.
Regional water supply planning responsibilities of the five water management districts, local governments and utilities are defined for areas where traditional sources of water would be inadequate by 2020.

1999

Florida Forever Act establishes historic land conservation program.
Governor Jeb Bush signs the Florida Forever Act, establishing a 10-year, \$3 billion conservation program to protect environmentally sensitive land and restore water resources.

1992

1994

1997

1999

2000

2000

Congress authorizes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).
The 2000 Water Resources Development Act authorizes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan as a framework for restoring, preserving and protecting the South Florida ecosystem. A 50-50 cost-share partnership between the State of Florida and the federal government, the 68 CERP project components are expected to take 30 years at an estimated cost of \$8 billion.



The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 authorizes the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

2000

State passes Everglades Investment Act.
Governor Jeb Bush travels to Everglades National Park to enact the Everglades Restoration Investment Act. The law sets aside more than \$2 billion over the next decade toward the state’s 50 percent cost-share for Everglades restoration.

2000

Lake Okeechobee Protection Act creates a plan for restoration.
Florida develops the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan, which provides a blueprint for reducing pollutant loads in the watershed and achieving water quality targets for the restoration of the lake and its tributaries.